Real Bargains Sales, These

A WEEKLY DELIGHT FOR WOMEN IN MOTT STREET.

One of the most interesting bargain counters in town is down at 309 Mott street. In fact, this particular bargain counter is unique.

For one thing, none of the articles offered for sale is quite new and then every one of them is an out and out bargain. Best of all, these bargains are offered regularly every Wednesday morning.

WAITING FOR THE DOOR TO OPEN.

Unfortunately, the general public is not admitted to the sale. In order to enjoy the privilege of buying there, would-be customers must be equipped with a letter of recommendation from a city clergyman, missionary or other responsible person who vouches for the bearer's respectability and need of getting bargains. This letter is given to either Miss Lathers or Miss Hancock, who are in charge of the sale, and in return the applicant gets a season ticket, which entitles her to come every week.

From this it will be seen that Mott street's bargain counter is only for the deserving poor and that the women who operate it have no mind to sell to second hand dealers or people who would buy articles to pawn them, or, for that matter, to bargain hunters who can afford to pay regular prices. Even those admitted as customers are not allowed to buy more than the size of their families warrant, and the letter of recommendation usually states how many children the applicant's family includes and if the woman has a husband. If, for instance, there is no boy in the family of a customer and yet she tries to buy a suit for a boy, an investigation is begun at once and in all probability she will forfeit her ticket.

"THE BOX OF BABY CLOTHES."

Philanthropy, it is easy to guess, is the corner stone of the Mott Street bargain sales. The enterprise was started something more than a year ago by one of the workers at St. Barnabas House in Mulberry street, and the idea was not original with her, something of the kind having been conducted by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd here some years ago. They, in turn, got the idea from an English sisterhood which practised it in London. At the present time, though, so far as can be ascertained, the St. Barnabas Clothing Bureau, as it is called, is the only one of the kind in New York.

The bureau is non-sectarian. It is designed to aid all sorts and conditions of people. A special feature, by the way, of the work is a Saturday morning sale of pretentious articles of woman's clothing received from time to time. These include evening gowns, cloaks, slippers, street suits, shoes and gloves of fine texture and but little worn. These, like everything at the Wednesday sale, are contributed by the charitably inclined.

"Sometimes," said Miss Lathers, "a rich woman who goes into mourning will send to us almost her entire wardrobe of colored clothes."

It is the Wednesday sale, however, with its collection of clothing for both sexes and for children as well as their elders, which is of most interest. Perhaps the most eager customers at this sale are Italian women, bare-headed, after the manner of their country, but very neat in their appearance, and next to them are Germans.

Long before 10 o'clock, the hour at which the sale begins, they gather on the sidewalk in front of the door behind which are the bargains. Every one brings her ticket along, or, if it is her first visit, an introductory letter.

When at last the door is flung open, every woman of them all pushes in precisely after the fashion of women bargain hunters the city over, with this difference, though, that the Mott street crowd of buyers is far more polite than that further uptown, and, moreover, it seems to know exactly what it wants to buy. It is there, in fact, with a definite purpose.

HUNTING FOR OLD LINEN IN THE PENNY BUNDLES.

As she passes in, every woman—there is seldom or never a man among the buyers—hands her ticket to an attendant, hands over her basket, too, if she has one with her, and then makes a plunge for the triangular counter. Back of this counter, lining one side of the wall, are tall colsets with many shelves which receive the goods donated as fast as they come in.

Gowns are in one division, coats in another underwear in a third, bed and table linen next to that and so on; and, with the arrival of the customers, anything and everything called for is placed on the counters before them. As a result before long the major part of the stock is being handled and scrutinized.

One small counter in the rear, is always loaded with whatever stock of shoes, boots and overshoes the establishment contains and it is to that particular counter that customers as a rule, swarm first, children's shoes are seized upon first, the shabbiest go as fast as the better ones. Five cents a pair is the lowest price, 10 cents is the average, 25 cents is the maximum and secures a stout pair of shoes almost new.

At times a large proportion of the buyers are in search of men's clothing and come equipped with a tape measure or a piece of string in order not to make a mistake about the measurements. Trousers and waistcoats the other day, were in great demand—the former bringing from 20 to 50 cents, the latter going at the uniform price of 10 cents. Boys' trousers were handed over for 10 and 15 cents and girls dresses for about the same prices.

There was also a lively demand for babies' things and like all women the world over, those of Mott street hung delightedly over the boxes filled with tiny socks, stockings and shoes, crocheted sacks, wee lace caps, dainty dresses, cloaks and underwear. Children are barred from the sales—there is no room for them—but occasionally an infant in arms gets in and before it gets out again generally succeeds in demonstrating that Mott street babies are every bit as fascinating and as pretty, too, as those who live further uptown.

A remarkably popular feature of these sales is the penny bundles which contain good-sized pieces of cloth, of carpet, of fur, of flannel, or of white linen, cotton, lace or lawn, colored calico, silk or velvet. Frequently a bundle includes enough dry goods to make a child's dress.

THE PRETTY ONE SEES THE NECESSITY FOR A HAIR ORNAMENT

Younger matrons, some of them hardly more than children, go to these sales, and for them there is a lot of attraction in the boxes which hold bits of finery such as ribbons, laces, veils, kid gloves, &c. They always ask for these boxes the first thing.

A big wad of crumpled chiffon marked five cents was rapturously grabbed one day by an Italian wife and mother aged possibly 17, who captured also a spotted veil for three cents and a white pompom for her hair, also marked three cents, which goes to prove that the motto of the bureau, "Give what you have; to some one it may be better than you dare to think," is a wise one.

Nothing would seem to be more worthless than discarded spectacles and yet two sets of them found eager purchasers at the Mott street bargain counter, likewise a faded tobacco pouch, which brought three cents, and a wire coffee pot stand, which sold for two cents. In short, anything and everything are wanted at the St. Barnabas Clothing Bureau and find there a ready market.

A neat little German woman, at a recent sale, gave up five cents willingly for a bound book of children's stories and was sorrowful because she couldn't afford to take another.

When a customer has made her wants known and every shelf has been ransacked to find what she has asked for, and she has examined and handled the goods to her heart's content, then the articles purchased are carried to a desk and the price reckoned up and paid before they are taken to another corner of the room to be wrapped up.

Last of all the buyer goes to the door, gets back her ticket and her basket and goes happily home, to come again probably the next week. Occasionally a customer doesn't find what she is looking for and trudges away hoping for better luck next time.

"Some weeks," commented Miss Lathers, "the donations are not so satisfactory as they are in others. For instance, perhaps only small-sized garments will arrive or there will be a plethora of large sizes. There is one big German woman who has been looking for a waist three weeks running and yet nothing big enough to fit her has come in."

"THE FIRST RUSH IS FOR SHOES."

The money taken in at the clothing bureau, less one-tenth—it amounted last year to $662—is used for the temporary housing of homeless women and children in St. Barnabas House. The reserved tenth is given as a thank offering to other charities, such as St. Faith's Home, and the Pro-Cathedral.

NOT ALTOGETHER PLEASED WITH HER BARGAIN.

MUSICAL STUDENTS ABROAD.

TRAGEDIES OF SOME AMERICAN WOMEN IN EUROPE.

Mrs. Gore's Fate in Paris Typical of the End of Many Careers—Instances of Women Who Failed — Fallacy of the Belief in European Study.

The mysterious death of the American woman, Mrs. Gore, in Paris has again called attention to the dangers that beset the young women who go there to study. Not many of them meet with a fate so tragic as that of Mrs. Gore, but a tragedy of some kind is far from infrequent among them, and it seems to occur most commonly in the case of women who go to Paris to study music.

The tragedy of blighted ambition, wasted time and money and final failure is, of course, the most frequent. But other kinds of tragedies end the apprenticeship of American girls in Europe very much oftener than most persons suppose. And the uselessness of the whole system, the mistaken views which take young women to Europe to study, accentuate the pathos of the sufferings that so many of them undergo there.

It is a fact that nine out of every ten young men and women who go to Europe to study music could find in this country teachers entirely capable of developing their talents. What they will ultimately become depends, of course, on themselves.

They may possess great natural power and they may have the best teachers in the world, but if they lack the quality essential to success they will never arrive at the end they are seeking. So there is every reason in the world why they should remain here, and when it has become evident that their talents demand a degree of cultivation not to be acquired in this country European experience may be valuable.

But that experience is certainly not needed until the opportunities here have been exhausted. It is said by singers, and in a less degree by instrumental musicians, that they consider it important to go abroad that they may have the advice of the greatest authorities and be started in the right way, without faults that may always hamper the development of their natural talents.

The reply to this is that students of music rarely go to Europe until they have studied here and would never be accepted as beginners by the famous persons they seek. So they are certain to run the risk of acquiring faults whether they begin here or in Europe, and they will do quite as well in this country as abroad. Nobody denies any longer that there are good singing teachers here, just as there are in Europe. And it is just as true that there are fine teachers of the piano and the violin. They are capable of developing any talent that comes to them so long as they have the intelligent cooperation of the student. And that is as true of Europe.

Look at the number of American girls with beautiful voices who go to study with Mme. Marchesi in Paris and then drop out of sight entirely. Mme. Marchesi is the most famous teacher of singing to-day, and she never acquired her reputation by accident. But she cannot make a singer out of a woman who has not the necessary musical intelligence.

She can give her all the benefit of her great knowledge and experience, but she cannot make her utilize them. That is the quality that decides whether or not the woman is to rise above her colleagues.

In the case of violinists, the same conditions exist. There come back here every year pupils of César Thomson, Sauret and Ysaye. There can be no criticism of their masters. But how many of those who study under them reveal anything that could not have been acquired here? How many pupils of Leschetisk learn from him any distinguishing quality that compensates for the time and money spent in studying under him in Vienna?

But that does not prove that he is any less great as a teacher than he is supposed to be. It proves merely that there was no talent in the pupil requiring the cultivation of such a teacher. If European teachers would tell the truth, nine out of ten would tell the American pupils who come to them that they could learn as much as they needed at home.

Once when an American artist returned from Paris he said it was full of art students from this country who wandered through the Louvre criticising the paintings or declaring how worthless the exhibition of the Salon was. All the time their relatives at home were saving in order to send them money.

Several years ago a season of opera in English was given here by a company that included a number of young Americans who had studied in Paris. They were especially amusing to the persons that heard them criticising adversely the great singers of the foreign company, who are recognized over the whole world.

This point of view is one of the most noticeable results of European study. It shows that the musicians have absorbed the "atmosphere" that they go abroad to seek. Talk to an aspiring pianist or singer for an hour, tell him that he can learn just as much here and finally convince him that there is no reason why he should waste time and money in going abroad. He will probably admit the truth of all the argument and then declare that what he wants is the "artistic atmosphere" of European cities. It has generally been noticed that the students who acquire the greatest amount of atmosphere take in the least of every other advantage of European work.

Men are always able to look out for themselves, so the tragedies of their studies abroad appeal less strongly to the sympathies. There are violinists in theatre orchestras who spent money and time studying in Europe under famous masters, and there are piano teachers who are able to call themselves pupils of some famous person as a result of all their labors of years.

These men, of course, dreamed of careers as great virtuosos. Anybody acquainted with the extent of their talents could have told them how unnecessary such an expenditure of time and money in Europe was certain to be. But the men are able to care for themselves. It is in the case of the woman that the tragedy is frequent.

Europe is to-day full of American women who went there to study music and for various reasons never returned to their homes.

Some of them were too much discouraged to attempt to begin a career when they knew that failure was certain. So they stayed on studying or pretending to so long as their families at home were able to provide the money.

Others cut loose from their families altogether. Study in Paris does not tend to strengthen the domestic feelings in women. Some special instances will show the results of European study on certain Americans.

In Paris to-day there is a handsome American woman who seems to be about 35. Her son is in this country and she occasionally comes here to see him. Then those of her old friends who are willing to look at her remark that she seems almost ten years younger than they know her to be.

As a young widow she went abroad to cultivate her voice. Her husband had driven her away by his cruelty and it was necessary for her to do something to support her child. She lived in a cheap boarding house and went to one of the famous teachers.

Self-sacrifice was not much in her line, but she made a struggle. She was a dainty woman and she loved the pretty things of life. After a while she began to have some of them, even as a student.

Her voice was not remarkable, but she was a good musician and after a while the time for her to make a début came. She was a woman of the kind to attract managers and soon got an engagement at an operahouse in an Austrian city.

The compensation was, of course, very small. She struggled to live on it and succeeded for a while.

There were rich officers in the garrison town and the American was beautiful. She devoted still much time to her art, but she found some for the officers.

The third year of her career she travelled through the German and Russian cities and sang in Paris and London. There were already more diamonds and officers and less time for work.

Then the career suddenly ended, for the voice had gone. She came back here to sing in concert that her own country might have the opportunity of hearing her once. Her failure was complete and she decided to attempt comic opera.

She was not suited to that and there was another failure. The diamonds were going and the last went to pay her passage back to Europe.

They were all redeemed soon after she reached Paris. Now she lives there in beautiful style and is vaguely said by her friends to be "teaching."

The young married woman who goes abroad to study, and then finds, when the time to come home has arrived, that she is quite out of sympathy with her husband, gets into the newspapers almost every month.

One woman left a wealthy husband five years ago to prepare for a début that has not yet been made, although she is approaching 40. After five years of life in Paris her husband got a divorce, and without means she had to come back to this country. Now she is still "studying" in Chicago for the famous début that is yet to be made.

Another American who really had talent left her husband, a prosperous business man, to study in Italy. He got a divorce, and she is travelling through the smaller Italian cities.

She has been doing that for five years, with little indication that she will ever rise any higher in her profession; and her earnings are so small that, live as economically as she may, her family here has to contribute to her support.

Another case will illustrate what may occur when the student happens to have a little money. This was the lot of an American girl who had from youth played on the violin.

One of the great virtuosos who came here heard her play and conscienceclessly declared that she had great talent and should go to Europe although he knew perfectly well that his advice was wrong. But just such careless praise as this is usually the cause of trouble.

The girl was, of course, certain she would make a great career. Her family, in view of what the violinist had said, was perfectly willing to have her go to Europe.

She was introduced there to a teacher by the player who had advised her to study abroad. She took an apartment and began work.

She was ill for four months in one year. The next year she had to return here for several months. She studied and played occasionally for friends, who sent back glowing accounts of what she had accomplished.

After another year she gave a concert which her women friends attended and enjoyed and there were a few polite lines in the newspapers which her manager afterward told her of and said he had paid for. Anyhow, she had to pay him.

Other students came to her in their distress and borrowed money because they knew she had it. More study followed and two years later came the time for the final appearance.

It had to be bought of course. She had to pay for the hall and all the other expenses. And there was but the barest mention of the affair in the papers, without a word from any of the musical critics of Paris.

Then she tried London. There the prospects were so discouraging that she fled to New York with the idea of playing here. Friends heard her and declared that she was splendid. Musicians heard her and warned her not to think of appearing here in public.

She had even gone so far toward an appearance as to engage a hall. But she was wise enough to know which opinion was the right one and gave up all idea of showing her skill in public.

A year more of study in Germany brought her again to the point of a public appearance. She made it there, at her own expense, of course. But it cost less in Germany than anywhere else.

As it was, the investment was a failure. The few critics who noticed her appearance at all remarked on the immaturity of her talent, when they admitted she had shown any.

It was out of the question, after she had recognized her complete failure, to go back to the life she had given up seven years before. She had no sympathy with her family or her old friends. They bored her.

She liked the companionship of the men and women she met in the concert halls and conservatories. Gradually her family heard from her less and less frequently. She drifted back to Paris and then to Vienna, always "studying," but of course making no progress of any kind.

When she married a violinist in a Berlin orchestra, her family ceased to hear from her. They were afterward divorced. What her life may be now her friends do not care to think.

LAST OF YALE'S OLD BUILDINGS.

A New Proposal to Tear Down Old South Middle College Raises a Storm.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Dec. 6.—An agitation has just been started as to whether Old South Middle College on the Yale campus shall be torn down, and an effort has been made to find out how the alumni stand on the proposal. One of the first replies received was from A. N. Lewis, secretary of the class of '52. He said that the announcement that Old South Middle is to be torn down would strike a chill to the hearts of the survivors of the class of '52.

"To destroy the fence was bad enough," he wrote, "but to pull down South Middle would be a calamity. Wait at least till we who knew it in the good old days have passed away."

Those who urge the demolition of Old South Middle declare that the building has outlived its usefulness. They say it greatly disfigures the present quadrangle, is sadly out of repair and it will be practically impossible to make it habitable as a dormitory in comparison with the other dormitories on the campus.

Those who are enthusiastic over the artistic appearance of the campus assert that Old South Middle, with its bulletin boards and its advertising signs of the Yale cooperative store, presents the appearance of a second-hand department store. Standing, as it does, between Osborn Hall and Vanderbilt, it breaks up the symmetry of the quadrangle; and it is alleged, also, interferes with the light of Osborn Hall.

These iconoclasts, as one of the alumni calls them, say that the campus is small enough without the obstruction of any useless buildings upon it. If South Middle is preserved, they argue, it would be of no use except as a reminder of the Yale of bygone days, and to repair it so that it will stand the ravages of time would mean an expenditure of thousands of dollars. The building needs a new roof, the floors are in bad condition and the windows must be repaired. Also, the building needs to be tried up before it will be in a fairly respectable condition.

To go to all this trouble and expense to cater to the sentiment of a small percentage of the Yale alumni, is not in accordance with Yale's progressive spirit, so the would-be demolishers of the old building argue. The other buildings in the old brick row, North, South, North Middle and old Lyceum, had to give way to the improvements on the campus, and those who want the last old landmark razed, see no reason why Old South Middle should be an exception. These Yale men say that they would have been glad to have had the entire brick row kept intact, but as that was impossible there is no reason in their minds why Old South Middle should be favored.

Those who are lined up for retaining Old South Middle at any and every cost, and there are thousands of Yale men in this class, have arguments in plenty for the preservation of the venerable structure. They say that the old life, the past achievements, traditions and honors are a tangible part of the college assets as an educator. These are made a hundred times more effective when represented by such buildings and therefore it would be wanton waste of the resources of Yale to tear down this landmark.

Many of the alumni feel that South Middle is the connecting link between the development of Yale as a university and Yale as a college. They say that South Middle and Vanderbilt Hall standing side by side are typical of the Yale of the past and the Yale of the present, and the assertion that it disfigures the campus and destroys the beauty of the quadrangle, is regarded by many as a very poor reason for destroying the building.

President Hadley says that as far as he knows there is no authority for the statement that the building will be demolished in the spring. Two years ago he expressed this opinion before the meeting of the alumni of Buffalo:

In connection with the keeping up of old conservative ways I hope we may keep as far as possible the old campus and the old buildings. Your president's friends, the clerical members of the corporation, are an iconoclastic set. They want to take down old buildings, but I think we are going to be able to preserve South Middle as long as its old walls will hold it up.

President Hadley said to-day that he saw no reason to change the mind since that utterance.

"Will the corporation decide the question?" President Hadley was asked.

"The corporation or the law of gravitation will decide it," was the President's reply.

A Yale man connected with the direction of affairs at the university, made the statement to-day that Old South Middle will come down a year from the coming summer. It was built in 1758. About thirty students now occupy rooms in the building. On the ground floor are the rooms of the Yale cooperative store and the campus police headquarters. Two of the Yale professors have offices in the building.

CHANGES IN GOLF PUTTERS.

The Aluminum the Puzzle of the Hour With the Amateurs.

There is more controversy over the merits of the new putters than has ever been waged over any new club in golf. This is because they are distinctively American, owing nothing to golfing ideas from abroad, and, too, because they are the conception of amateurs. The material is an alloy of aluminum, with the shaft inserted in the top instead of at the heel of the head. It has a deep face and an oval back, the depth of face and back marking the variation in the patterns used by different amateurs—one having so much metal behind the shaft that it is called the "hammerhead." The claim for the new device is that the shaft is at the point of impact with the ball and it is easier to put straight, the tendency to twist the face in or out during the stroke, a common fault with even the best players when using the ordinary putter, being entirely eradicated by the improved aluminum club.

The first of these putters was brought out by Mr. Knight of the Mohawk Golf Club, Schenectady, while the "hammerhead" is the idea of Findlay S. Douglas. The first of the Knight putters seen on an M. G. A. links was used by Devereaux Emmet in the September tournament of the Westbrook Golf Club. He presented one to W. J. Travis, who made somewhat of a sensation with it in the open championship at the Garden City Golf Club, in October. The professionals, mostly Scots, who had gathered for that competition were filled with wonder at the varied uses that Travis made of the new club, and, while they could not deny that his results were good, they were quite unanimous in the opinion it was "na' gowf." When the putting green is not guarded by a hazard, Travis uses the putter for a running-up approach, from distances where the "orthodox" player would rely on a mashie, and he has been known to play with it out of a bunker. It is on the putting greens, however, that the new club is most to be relied on and Douglas, always an uncertain putter with the long-bladed putter, has taken it up for the increased steadiness it has given to him on short puts.

It is noteworthy that ten years ago the inventive genius of our players was demonstrated in oddly shaped drivers, brasseys and cleeks, for to get results in the long game was then what bothered them. In the last two years there has been quite a run of new putters, proof that the long game has been mastered and that our players now realize the battle is on the putting greens. The aluminum clubs for playing through the fair green, which have taken the place of the brassey and irons with many players, are used in the belief that the rubber-filled ball flies best from aluminum, but this argument does not hold in the case of the putters. The secret of their vogue is the new principle brought into the game by having the shaft inserted at the point of impact. The new club is still in the experimental stage, there are many who uphold it as the one and only cure for a waggly short game, but quite as many say it is only a passing fancy. Whether it is to stay or not, the new putter is the sensation of the moment on the local links.